

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 HA-05 L-03 H-01 SY-05
SS-15 NSC-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
/073 W

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P 151655Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3150

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CARR, CASC, UR, US (CRAWFORD, FRANCIS JAY)

SUBJECT: W/W SECOND CONSULAR VISIT TO FRANCIS JAY CRAWFOR

REF: (A) STATE 151481, (B) STATE 150126, (C) STATE 151167
(D) MOSCOW 13671, (E) MOSCOW 13556 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONSULAR COUNSELOR WAS GRANTED SECOND VISIT WITH CRAWFORD JUNE 15, WHICH BEGAN AT 1600 HOURS AND LASTED ABOUT ONE HOUR. HE WAS ALSO PERMITTED TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL FOOD PARCELS BUT REQUEST FOR VISIT BY CRAWFORD'S FIANCEE IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. WHILE WAITING FOR CRAWFORD TO BE ESCORTED INTO INTERVIEW ROOM, COUNSELOR INFORMED COL. VOLODIN THAT, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT, PER REF A, HE INTENDED TO QUESTION CRAWFORD ON DETAILS OF HIS INTERROGATION. VOLODIN MADE MILD REJOINDER, BUT IN THE END PERMITTED SUCH QUESTIONING TO TAKE PLACE.

2. IN BRIEF, CRAWFORD HAS STOUTLY MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE OF ANY CURRENCY VIOLATIONS. THE INTERROGATION BY MAJOR BELYAYEV HAS THUS FAR FOCUSED ON HIS SOVIET NON-BUSINESS CONTACTS. CRAWFORD HAS TOLD

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BELYAYEV OF HAVING MADE ACQUAINTANCE OF A SOVIET COUPLE, VOLODYA AND LUSYA (WHOSE FAMILY NAME HE DOES NOT REMEMBER). LUSYA IS SEAMSTRESS AND HAS DONE SOME SEWING FOR HIM (I.E., DRAPES, ALTERATION OF CLOTHES) IN RETURN FOR WHICH CRAWFORD HAS GIVEN HER MATERIAL FOR DRESS AND MATCHING THREAD, STETSON HAT, AND SOME OF HIS OUTGROWN CLOTHING, BUT NEVER ANY MONEY, EITHER

RUBLES OR HARD CURRENCY.

3. CRAWFORD STATES HE ALSO TOLD BELYAYEV HE ONCE ATTENDED SHOWING OF PAINTINGS AT APARTMENT OF ART COLLECTOR GEORGE COSTAKIS (WHO HAS SINCE PERMANENTLY LEFT USSR), WHERE HE MET PHOTOGRAPHER FROM WHOM HE SUBSEQUENTLY BOUGHT PORTRAIT OF MAYA PLISETSKAYA FOR 30 RUBLES AND AN ARTIST FROM WHOM HE PURCHASED A PAINTING FOR 150 RUBLES.

4. THE ONLY OTHER "CONTACTS" HE REMEMBERS (AND HE HAD SO INFORMED BELYAYEV) WERE DURING AN EVENING WITH HIS FIANCEE, MISS VIRGINIA OLBRISH, ABOUT A MONTH AGO AT THE HARD CURRENCY BAR IN THE HOTEL MOZHAISKY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MOSCOW. DURING THE MOMENTARY ABSENCE OF MISS OLBRISH, THREE GIRLS APPROACHED HIM AT THE BAR AND IN THE CONVIVIALITY OF THE ATMOSPHERE, HE TOOK THEIR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS AND ENTERED THEM IN HIS ADDRESS BOOK. SINCE MISS OLBRISH RETURNED VERY SHORTLY, SHE WAS A WITNESS TO THIS EVENT.

5. FINALLY, CRAWFORD STATES HE TOLD BELYAYEV THAT IN VIEW OF HIS ENGAGEMENT TO MISS OLBRISH, HE HAS SPENT MOST OF HIS FREE TIME WITH HIS AMERICAN FIANCEE, AN EMBASSY SECRETARY. THE COUPLE'S SOCIAL CONTACTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN EXCLUSIVELY THE DIPLOMATIC AND AMERICAN AND THIRD-COUNTRY BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

6. CONSOFF TOLD CRAWFORD OF WIDE PRESS INTEREST IN CASE AND INFORMED HIM THAT UNLESS HE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED EMBASSY TO DO SO, PRIVACY ACT FORBIDS US TO PASS DETAILS OF CONSULAR INTERVIEWS TO PRESS. CRAWFORD PREFERS NOT REPEAT NOT TO AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF INTERVIEWS WITH PRESS, BUT EXPRESSED DEEP GRATITUDE FOR EMBASSY AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT. IN VIEW OF PRESS INTEREST IN THIS CASE, WE SEE NO REASON NOT TO INFORM LOCAL AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS, ON IF-ASKED BASIS, THAT MEETING DID TAKE PLACE, THAT IT LASTED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR, THAT MS. OLBRISH WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SEE CRAWFORD BUT THAT SHE WAS ALLOWED TO RECEIVE PERSONAL LETTER AND SIGNED POWER OF ATTORNEY FROM HIM. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL WE MENTION ANY DETAILS OF SUBSTANCE OF CASE.

7. CRAWFORD AGREED TO ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL LAWYER ON HIS BEHALF, PER REFTEL B. WHEN LAWYER HAS BEEN

ENGAGED EMBASSY WILL SUGGEST HE CONTACT INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER'S GENERAL COUNSEL WILLIAM CRAWFORD FOR PURPOSES LISTED REF B. AS DEPT. MAY BE AWARE, CRAWFORD WILL PROBABLY HAVE NO CONTACT WITH LAWYER UNTIL AFTER PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION PHASE IS OVER AND THEN ONLY ONE OR TWO BRIEF MEETINGS BEFORE TRIAL.

8. CONSOFF PASSED CONTENTS OF REF C TO CRAWFORD FOR WHICH HE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO THOSE CONCERNED.

9. THOUGH STILL BITTER AND UPSET AT HIS ARREST, CRAWFORD'S MORALE HAS IMPROVED SINCE FIRST VISIT. MAJOR FACTOR APPEARS TO BE KNOWLEDGE OF WIDE, ACTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPPORT CONSOFF REPORTED HE IS RECEIVING.

10. FOR THE RECORD, WE REPORT THAT MFA USA DIVISION COUNSELOR V. F. ISAKOV CONFIRMED TO CONSULAR COUNSELOR THAT CRAWFORD IS CHARGED PER REF D, WITH VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 88 OF RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE AND NOT ARTICLE 78 AS ISAKOV HAD PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED. MATLOCK

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